

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 10-12.

Claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under §102(e) on the basis of Kilmer et al. (U.S. 6,127,656). Applicants traverse this rejection because Kilmer does not disclose (or suggest) an air pump having a threaded shaft operatively connected to a diaphragm that is threadedly engaged to a motor, as in claim 6. The reference also does not disclose or suggest a motor having a threaded shaft that moves axially, as in claim 7, or a motor having a threaded shaft, as in claim 8.

Kilmer merely discloses a motor 124 having an eccentric connector 126 that moves a housing 140. There is no threaded connection between the motor and the housing, and the shaft of the motor is not threaded. Moreover, the shaft does not move axially. Kilmer translates motion in a perpendicular manner, in that the motor shaft is perpendicular to the direction of movement of the diaphragm. This arrangement is cumbersome and space consuming. The present invention is a patentable advance over the reference because it is simpler and more compact. The problem is solved by aligning the axis of the motor parallel to the axis of the shaft that moves the diaphragm, among other things. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should call Applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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